Craving Your Pulse

[Verse 1]
You fell asleep
Reading on my chest
Dog-eared page
On the part about death
Your breath on my neck
Soft and slow
You trust me so much
You don't know

[Chorus]
I taste your pulse in the dark
In the dark
Every beat like it's tearing me apart
I want your lips
Not your lifeline
God
I'm sick with this hunger
For what's inside
I'm dying just to not
Take your life
Drowning in the want
To bite the one I love

[Verse 2]
You say my hands
Always run cold
Laugh it off
Call me your ghost
You trace the scars
That never fade
Ask me where
I got this way

[Chorus]
I taste your pulse in the dark
In the dark
Every beat like it's tearing me apart
I want your lips
Not your lifeline
God
I'm sick with this hunger
For what's inside
I'm dying just to not
Take your life
Drowning in the want
To bite the one I love

[Bridge]
What if I slip?
What if I snap? (oh)
What if I wake
With your blood on my hands?
I swear I would burn
Before I let that stand
But every kiss
Drags me closer again

[Chorus]
I taste your pulse in the dark
In the dark
Every beat like it's tearing me apart
I want your lips
Not your lifeline
God
I'm sick with this hunger
For what's inside
I'm dying just to not
Take your life
Chained to this curse
Calling it love
Drowning in the want
To bite the one I love

—

Prayer Against the Sun
By Roger E Bissell Jr

She woke slowly, as if rising from a very deep dream.
Her body felt... wrong. Stronger. Colder. Alive in a way that frightened her.

In the shadowed corner of the room, he sat perfectly still, elbows on his knees, head bowed. The weight of what he had done hung heavy in the silence.

She touched her neck where the memory of pain still lingered.
“You changed me,” she whispered.

He lifted his eyes — ancient, exhausted, and full of love and guilt.
“I felt you slipping away. Every night I held you, I could feel your life growing quieter. I couldn’t let you go.”

She searched his face, looking for the monster she had never believed lived inside the man she loved.
“You made me like you.”

A long silence.

“I don’t know if I did it for you... or for me,” he said softly. “Maybe both.”

Her mind began to race.

Will I never see my family again? Will I never feel sunlight on my face? Will I become something that hunts in the dark?

As if he could hear every thought, he spoke gently:
“We can walk in daylight. It is only... uncomfortable. Painful sometimes. But not impossible.”

She turned away from him, pulling the sheet closer. Her voice cracked.
“I love you dearly... but I cannot look at you right now.”

He stood slowly. Without another word, he left the room.

He went to the Council and told them what he had done.

The argument that followed was fierce. Voices rose in anger and fear. They warned that she would lose control. That she would expose them all. That she had to be dealt with.

He stood firm, his voice low but unshakable:
“She is mine to protect. Touch her and I will destroy you. Every last one of you. I swear it.”

Sensing their doubt and the danger growing, he broke away and returned to her.

She was still sitting on the edge of the bed when he stepped back into the room, breathing hard.

“They know,” he said quietly. “The Council does not approve. They fear what you might become... and they may come for you.”

He looked at her with centuries of love and regret in his eyes.

“Safety and love matter more right now than answers. I will take you somewhere safe if you’ll let me. But if you want me to leave... I will go. The choice is yours.”

He stood there in the doorway — waiting, hoping, terrified.

And somewhere in the quiet, the question lingered between them:

What happens to two people who love each other enough to break every rule... and every law of heaven and earth?

—

He Spoke for Her Life

By Roger E Bissell Jr

He approached the ancient chamber as Article 12 demanded.
All new transitions must be reported. All new children of the night must face judgment.

The Council of Elders waited in cold silence — a body he himself had helped create centuries ago. Though one of the five founders, he had chosen long ago to step away from leadership and live by the very laws he once helped forge.
“As you know,” the lead elder began, “this Council exists so we may never again be hunted as we were in the old world.”

He stood tall and spoke with quiet honesty:

“I have fallen deeply in love with a woman who sees only light in others. She called me her phantom because of my cold skin, never once suspecting the truth I carried. I watched her slowly fading away... and I could not let her slip into darkness. What has been done is my burden alone. She is innocent.”
The chamber erupted in fury.

One elder shouted, “You condemn her with your own words! One who was weak and now possesses such power — the temptation will surely consume her.”

Another warned sharply, “Her brother is a governor. She will expose us all!”
Arguments exploded across the room.
He listened no longer.

His voice cut through the chaos — deep, resonant, and filled with unshakable resolve:

“Enough.”

Silence fell.

“She is mine to protect. If any harm comes to her — if any one of you so much as lays a finger upon her — you will know my wrath. I will leave none of you standing.”

Sensing the danger rising in their eyes, he withdrew from the chamber without another word.

His only thought now was her.

He moved swiftly through the night, heart heavy with guilt and fierce determination. He had broken their most sacred law... and he would break far more to keep her safe.

Only one question remained:

Would she choose to run with him... or turn away forever?

—

You Made Me Stay

[Verse 1]
I woke like a rusted bell
From a dream too deep to name
My skin felt cold and stronger
And my pulse was not the same

You sat there in the corner
Elbows pressed into your knees
Like the room had made you guilty

Like the dark had set you free

I touched the mark you left me
Felt it burn beneath my throat
Then I looked for some kind of monster
In the man I used to hold

[Pre-Chorus]
You said, "I felt you slipping"
"Every night, I heard you fade"
"And I could not keep on losing you"
"Not the way I was afraid"

[Chorus]
I love you dearly, but not like this
Not while my heart is split
You made me change, you made me stay
(you made me stay)
You made me change, you made me stay
But I don't know what this is

[Verse 2]
My mind ran for my mother
For my brother, for the sun
For the life I left behind me
For the blood in everyone

Would I ever see their faces?
Would I ever feel that flame?
Would I wake up hungry and hollow
With your shadow in my veins?

Then you told me, soft and careful
"We can walk where daylight falls"
"Pain will come, and yes, it hurts"
"But it does not end it all"

[Pre-Chorus]
And I heard the fear in your breathing
When you said it was a choice
But my love was torn in two directions
By your hand and by my voice

[Chorus]
I love you dearly, but not like this
Not while my heart is split

You made me change, you made me stay
(you made me stay)
You made me change, you made me stay
But I don't know what this is

[Bridge]
You went to face the Council
And I felt the room go still
Like thunder in a marble hallway
Like a sentence with no will

Voices rose, then broke in anger
Saying I would turn and run
Saying I would bring the ruin
Saying I would come undone

Then your voice cut through the chaos
Low and sharp and full of steel
"She is mine to protect now"
"Touch her, and you'll know how I feel"

[Final Chorus]
I love you dearly, but not like this
Not while my heart is split
You made me change, you made me stay
(you made me stay)
You made me change, you made me stay
But I don't know what this is

If you want the night, I'll go with you
If you want the door, I'll let it
If love can break both heaven and earth
Then maybe love can still protect it

[Outro]
You stood there in the doorway
Terrified and undone
And I kept one hand on my heart
Like a prayer against the sun

—